

REMARKS

Restriction has been required by the Examiner under 35 USC 121 to one of the following groups of claims:

I.

Claims 1-19, drawn to a method for preparing a transplantable graft.

II.

Claim 20, drawn to a method of inhibiting cell differentiation.

However, such a restriction does not appear to be proper since specific provisions are set forth under the Unity Of Invention Requirement of PCT Rule 13.1 that allow for one invention where a group of inventions are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. The general inventive concept herein is a method of preparing a transplantable graft from an extra embryonic biological supporting membrane which becomes a skin equivalent of a body tissue that has a defect due to an injury or burn by virtue of inhibiting cell differentiation. Therefore, this single inventive concept runs throughout claims 1-20 and therefore constitute a technical relationship among all of claims 1-20.

Whether one is discussing claims 1-19 alone or claims 1-20, this single general inventive concept runs throughout the claims under consideration. Accordingly, the guideline for requiring

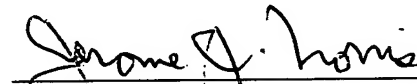
division has not been met since there is a single inventive concept that ties together all of claims 1-20.

Further, Section 803 of the MPEP states in effect that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner is encouraged to examine it on the merits, even if it includes claims of two distinct or independent inventions.

In view of the close relationship among the present claims and in view of the resulting search not creating an undue burden on the examiner, it is submitted that restriction is improper and that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerome J. Norris", is written over a horizontal line.

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